

“If you don’t like the weather in New England, just wait a few minutes.”

Mark Twain

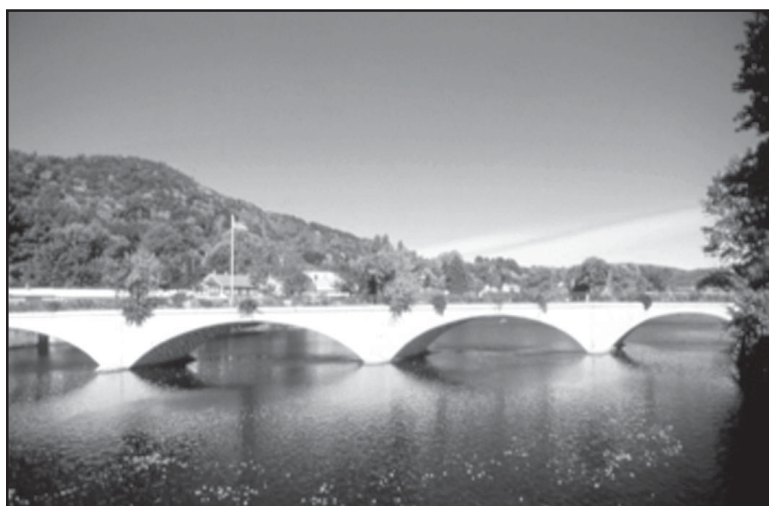


Housatonic River, Great Barrington



Mayflower gardens, Plymouth

Spring is at its peak from April until the middle of June. To the north and west of Boston many towns hold maple syrup festivals, and the gardens of southern Massachusetts are alive with color as their flowers come into full bloom. Many cities and towns host garden tours, including the famous Beacon Hill Hidden Garden Tour in Boston.



Bridge of Flowers, Shelburne Falls



Borderland State Park, North Easton

Internal Service Funds

Internal Service Funds are used to account for the risk financing and insurance related activities of the Commonwealth.

Employees Workers' Compensation - accounts for the activities of the Commonwealth's Self-Insurance Program for state employees Workers Compensation.

Central Artery Workers' Owner Controlled Insurance Program Trust - accounts for the Commonwealth Insurance Program which includes workers' compensation and general liability for all contractors and subcontractors on the Commonwealth's Central Artery/Tunnel Project.

Employees Group Health Insurance - accounts for the Commonwealth Group Health and Life Insurance programs for Commonwealth employees and retirees.

Liability Management and Reduction Fund - accounts for chargebacks assessed to departments as premiums for the provision of insurance coverage for state agencies to cover payment of judgements, settlements and litigation costs in tort claims.

The Swan Boats are as much a part of Boston as the bean and the cod. They are the harbinger of Spring to native Bostonians. Famed in the stories Make Way For Ducklings and The Trumpet of the Swan, the Swan Boats are the only boats of their kind in the world! To the delight of the young and old each April for over 120 years, the Swan Boats have appeared in the Public Garden Lagoon with preening grace.

They slowly cruise the lagoon in the Boston's Public gardens and under the the world's smallest suspension bridge.

This Boston tradition dates back to the 1870's when Robert Paget, whose descendants continue to operate the business, was granted a boat for hire license by the City of Boston. In 1877, he capitalized on the bicycle principle and with the help of others, developed a catamaran which housed a paddle wheel arrangement that was foot-propelled. To cover the



Swan Boats, Public Garden , Boston

captain, Robert suggested a swan! The idea came to him from his familiarity with the opera Lohengrin. The opera is based on a medieval German story in which Lohengrin, a knight of the Grail crosses a river in a boat drawn by a swan to defend the innocence of his heroine, Princess Elsa. The current fleet consists of six boats, the oldest of which was built in 1918.

The tradition, which began over 120 years ago, has grown to become a symbol of Boston and the city's unique blend of history and beauty. Paul Paget, grandson of Robert Paget, and his wife Marilyn maintain the charm and integrity of a vision that became a reality for a young boat builder and his wife many years ago.

Text, courtesy of www.swamboats.com